

# AG INNOVATION GUIDE



AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER  
Missouri Department of Agriculture

## RESOURCES FOR STARTING OR EXPANDING YOUR AGRICULTURE-BASED BUSINESS

### Web-Based Resources for Agricultural Entrepreneurs

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This *Ag Innovation Guide* will help you identify web resources that can assist you in starting or expanding your agriculture-based business.

#### **USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service**

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/csdir.htm>

This site provides information about USDA's programs, technical assistance and publications relating to cooperatives. Be sure to look at USDA's guides for starting and managing a cooperative. The site also includes information reports and research reports relating to a variety of cooperative issues and contact information for cooperative development staff in each state.

#### **University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives**

<http://www.wisc.edu/uwcc/>

This site provides a wide array of information related to cooperatives, including: news stories about cooperatives world-wide; links to cooperatives and cooperative-related sites; extensive list of cooperative service organizations worldwide; information on all types of cooperatives; publications relating to cooperative start-up, governance, financing, theory and history; and conference proceedings from cooperative development training sponsored by UWCC and other organizations. This site also includes an online catalog of more than 200 cooperative publications and videos issued by the Cooperative Services program of USDA's Rural Business-Cooperative Service. A brief description of contents is given for each publication and videotape.

#### **Center for Value-Added Agriculture, Iowa State Department of Agriculture.**

[www.agvalue.state.ia.us/](http://www.agvalue.state.ia.us/)

This site highlights the technical assistance provided by Iowa State University's Center for Value-Added Agriculture.

**Iowa Ag Opportunity**

[www.iowaagopportunity.org/](http://www.iowaagopportunity.org/)

This site provides several comprehensive guides for value-added agriculture products, including pork processing and marketing, beef processing and marketing, ethanol production, and organic produce marketing. The site also includes a calendar of value-added agriculture and cooperative development events around the United States.

**National Cooperative Business Association**

<http://www.cooperative.org/>

NCBA is a national association of all types of cooperatives. Their site says it “presents information about cooperatives to help people understand how they can use the cooperative model to improve their lives and their communities.”

Helpful information includes a cooperative primer, which details how to start a cooperative and provides lessons for success; co-op catalog for ordering publications and gifts; and information on a variety of cooperative types, including agricultural, child care, housing, purchasing, shared-services, consumer, finance, insurance, health and worker cooperatives.

**Cooperative Development Center**, Economic Dev Center, Mandan, ND 800-234-0518.

**Cooperative Development Services**, Mary Mahoney or E.G. Nadeau, 30 West Mifflin Street, Suite 401, Madison, WI 53703, 608-258-4396. [www.wisc.edu/uwcc/info/cds.html](http://www.wisc.edu/uwcc/info/cds.html)

**Ag Utilization Research Institute**, Edgar Olson, Northern Region AURI, P.O. Box 599, Crookston, MN 56716, 218-281-7600. [www.auri.org/](http://www.auri.org/)

**Arthur Capper Coop Center**, Kansas State Univ, 785-532-1508, [www.agecon.ksu.edu/accc](http://www.agecon.ksu.edu/accc)

**National Council of Farmer Cooperatives**, <http://www.ncfc.org/>

This is the national association of businesses owned by farmers. Provides links to their member cooperatives. Includes history of farmer cooperatives in the United States, as well as links to information relating to starting a cooperative.

**Center for Cooperatives, Univ of California at Davis**, <http://www.cooperatives.ucdavis.edu/>

Wide array of resources available, including information on agricultural, consumer, credit unions, health care, housing, marketing and shared-service, and worker cooperatives.

Publications relating to cooperative start-ups and general cooperative information, including publications specifically on cooperative management, finance and board governance issues.

Videos are available for sale. Site also available in Spanish.

**Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives, North Dakota State University**

<http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/qbcc/index.htm>

Good source of information on cooperative start-ups. Publications section includes economic impact studies, feasibility and market studies, and research relating to traditional and new generation cooperatives.

701-231-1016

**Center for the Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan**

[http://www.coop\\_studies.usask.ca/](http://www.coop_studies.usask.ca/)

This site has a variety of publications available to download and purchase, including recent publications on new generation cooperatives, car-sharing cooperatives, and other types of cooperatives. The center's library holds a collection of approximately 3,700 items, including books, journals, videos, proceedings, annual reports, and theses—the library's holdings are available on the website.

**Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Western Illinois University**

<http://www.iira.org/>

This site has two publications relating to cooperatives available to download: a rectory of new generation cooperatives across the United States and a bibliography of cooperatives and cooperative development. The site also has many other resources related to rural development.



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